THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b) Due to increase in customs duty on imported carbon steel melting scrap in December, 1990 and the exchange rate adjustment made in July, 1991, there was considerable increase in the price of imported scrap. Release of free foreign exchange to the Metal Scrap Trade Corporation (MSTC) was also reduced because of the adverse balance of payments situation. Direct imports by users through Replenishment licences/ Exim Scrips involved additional cost of premium. As a result of all these factors, there was substantial reduction in the import of scrap which further pushed up prices of domestic scrap. The increase in scrap prices and reduced availability of imported scrap affected production in the mini-steel plants.

(c) Government have reduced scutoms duty on imported scrap from 35% to 10% in January, 1992. This has led to some decline in the prices of not only imported scrap but also domestic scrap. In order to reduce dependence of mini-steel plants on imported scrap, Government are attaching high priority to increasing the production of sponge iron which is a substitute for steel scrap.

Closure of agricultural college in Raghuvir Singh Pura in Jammu and Kashmir

*158. SHRI SHABBIR AHMED SALARIA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Agricultural college at Raghuvir Singh Pura in Jammu has been closed; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to reopen the same ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : (a) Sir, The College was closed in early 1960s.

(b) A degree programme in Agriculture has been started in 1990 at Raghuvir Singh Pura.

Facilities to Teachers working in Moscow and Kathmandu

*159. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of facilities presently admissible to teachers of Kendriya Vidyalayas located in Moscow and Kathmandu;

(b) whether the same have recently been revised; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : (a) to (c) A statement giving details of facilities and allowances as applicable to the staff of Kendriya Vidyalayas in Moscow and Kathumandu, indicating revision therein, is attached. (*See* Appendix CLXII, Annexure No. 36).

Memorandum of Understanding between India and Indonesia

*160. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Indonesia have recently signed a memorandum of understanding to enhance cooperation in the field of Agriculture; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for enhancing cooperation in the field of agriculture between India and Indonesia was signed in Jakarta on 20th February, 1992.

(b) The MOU provides for developing cooperation in all fields of agriculture including food crops; secondary crops; rainfed farming; hybrid rice; plantation crops including sugarcane and palm cultivation; horticulture; fisheries; livestock; poultry; farmers cooperative; integrated pest management; agricultural machinery; water resources management and biotechnology. Bilateral cooperation will be carried out by exchange of information, germplasm, experts and technicians, joint research, training study tours and consultations on trade.

Breeder Seeds

1380. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to rafer to the answer to unstarred Question 3302 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 20th December, 1991 and state: